THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government's job is to give the information. I will let you know as soon as I am informed.

Yes, Mr. Sreedharan.

Exchange of Heavy firing between Indian and Pakistan Troops in Poonch Sector

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN (Kerala): This special mention is about the subject raised by hon. Member Yashwant Sinha. On that day almost an assurance was given in this House that the Defence Minister will come out with the statement.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): There is no question of 'almost', it was an assurance.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is raising it as a special mention. Let him speak.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said that he will convey the feelings of the entire House to the Defence Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think it was Leader of the House who said it.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Yes, I stand corrected, but so far nothing has happened. This proves beyond any shadow of doubt how this inapt, irresponsible Government is totally unconcerned about the sovereignty and integrity of our country. This is not a small thing. Dangerous things are happening on our frontier in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani troops are repeatedly firing on our Indian positions. The press reports say that stray incidents used to take place earlier also but now a situation has arisen when Pakistan is deliberately provoking the Indian positions on the line of actual control in Jammu and Kashmir and creating a situation of confrontation. Not only did they kill some of our soldiers, but they occupied some of our territory also which was retrieved by Indian soldiers. The Government seems to be totally unconcerned about it. I would like to pay my unqualified tribute to Indian soldiers, Indian armed forces, who are defending the frontiers of this country with courage and determination in spite of the indifferent attitude of this Government.

Madam, the world map is changing. Changes in the Soviet Union have created some vacuum in the international political field. Pakistan is fully aware of it and wants to capitalise on it. That is why Pakistan is intensifying its provocation. The Government should have come out long before with the details of the steps that are taken to defend our territory. I want the Government to take two or three steps. Firstly, I would like the Government to take Parliament into confidence and tell us what immediate steps have been taken to fortify our positions on our frontier in Jammu and Kashmir.

Secondly, when the officers of the Non-Aligned Movement met, Pakistan tried to raise the issue of Kashmir there. The understanding at the Simla Conference was that if this issue had to be discussed, it has to be discussed on a bilateral basis. But Pakistan deviated from that assurance in the Simla Agreement and tried to raise this issue. This proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that Pakistan is going to take new diplomatic initiatives against our country and also to win over other countries to its side. This is a serious situation. India is the leader of NAM. The Non-Aligned Movement was begun with the support of India and some other non-aligned countries, but I feel that we are getting isolated from the Non-Aligned Movement. This is a serious situation. A change has taken place. So I would like the Government to take more positive, effective, steps to fortify our position in the Non-Aligned Movement and also take diplomatic measures to confront the situation.

Finally, Madam, the Army and the Government alone cannot fight a country which is hostile to us. The people are very important. So the people should be taken into confidence and the people of India should be told what is happening on our border and what steps the Government is taking. This type of indiffe-

[Shri Arangil Sreedharan]

rence cannot be tolerated by this Parliament. Thank you.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदया, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। (**व्यवधान**) मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न यह है और इस विषय को यहां पर बार बार उठाया जा चुका है कि तीन संसदीय कार्य मंत्री हैं। एक तो हैं गुलाम नबी आजाद, दूसरे हैं जैकब साहब, ये दोनों इस सदन के सदस्य हैं और तीसरे हैं श्री कुमार मंगलम। लेकिन इस समय यहां पर एक भी पार्लियामेंटरी एफेयर्स मिनिस्टर उपस्थित नहीं हैं। मेरा आप से निवेदन है कि सरकार को इस बात की चेतावनी दी जाय कि सरकार राज्य सभा की उपेक्षा न करे। तीन संसदीय कार्य मंत्री मैंत्री जो हैं उनमें से एक को कम से कम यहां होना अनिवार्य होना चाहिए। इसी प्रकार से सदन के नेता भी यहां पर उपस्थित नहीं हैं।

उपसभापति : दूसरे हाउस में बिजी होंगे, यहां पर हाउस आफ लीडर रहते हैं।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय: कोई भी पार्लियामेंटरी एफेयर्स मिनिस्टर नहीं है, इस हाउस की इतनी उपेक्षा हो रही है।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (बिहार): महोदया, यह बात पहले भी यहां उठाई गई है। इस बात को आप अगर नहीं देखेंगी, इस सदन की प्रतिष्ठा की रक्षा नहीं करेंगी, तो मैडम, मैं समझता हूं कि हम लोगों के कहने से कुछ नहीं होने वाला है। इसलिए मैं भी इस बात को, जो श्री मालवीय जी ने उठाई है, बड़ी गंभीरता से आपके सामने रखते हुए चाहूंगा कि आप जस पर अपनी व्यवस्था दें साथ ही साथ अगर आप उचित समझें तो सरकार को आप यह निर्देश दें तीन पार्लियामेंटरी एफेयर्स मिनिस्टर्स में से कम से कम एक को यहां रहना चाहिए जैसा ही केबिनेट के किसी सदस्य को भी यहां जरूर रहना चाहिए। ऐसा न होने पर जितनी बातें यहां उठाई जाती हैं उनकी गंभीरता पर प्रश्नवाचक चिन्ह लग जाता है।

उपसभापति : आपने जो कहा है...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I had raised this issue on Tuesday. Today is Thurday. The flag meeting between the Army Commanders has taken place. In fact, Mr. Thakur is here...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me first deal with one thing. Then you can raise the other.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am talkig about the same thing.

उपसभापति : मंत्री यहां नहीं हैं, मैं उसके बारे में कह रही हूं। Let me give him an assurance. मैं चेयरमैन साहब से यह बात कहूंगी because he is superior to me.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय: आप इस वक्त चेयर पर हैं। आप सरकार को डाइरेक्शन दें। You have all the powers of the Chairman.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know I have the powers of the Chairman vested in me when I am in the Chair, but still I will discuss the matter with the Chairman. Today we have the Business Advisory Committee meeting where the Leader and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister would be there, and the matter would be taken up at the appropriate time. This assurance I can give you. I can give an assurance that I will take up the matter but I cannot give the assurance that I will produce the Parliamentary Affairs Minister ... (*Interuptions*)...

श्री आर० के० धवन (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): कहां लिखा हुआ है कि पार्लियामेंटरी एफेयर्स मिनिस्टर को होना चाहिए? (**व्यवधान**)

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : यह हाउस का कन्वेंशन है।

श्री आर. के. धवन : यहां मिनिस्टर नहीं बैठे हैं, कहां लिखा हुआ है कि है पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर को हर वक्त यहां होना चाहिए **(व्यवधान)**

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Are you challenging the ruling of the Chair?

श्री आर० के० धवन : तीन-तीन मिनिस्टर बैठे है **(व्यवधान)** तीन-तीन मिनिस्टर यहां बैठे हैं, सिन्हा साहब आपके वक्त में तो एक भी मिनिस्टर यहां पर नहीं होता था **(व्यवधान)**

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा : मैं जब गवर्नमेंट में था तो . . .

As Leader of the House I used to sit all the time. Don't talk to me about what I was doing. *(Interruptions)*

श्री आर० के० धवन : आपके समय में तो एक भी मिनिस्टर नहीं होता था हाउस में **(व्यवधान)**

आप बताइये कि यहां कहां लिखा हुआ है कि पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर जरूर यहां रहेगा ? **(व्यवधान)** आपके पास कोई बात उठाने को तो है नहीं **(व्यवधान)**

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : यह जो सवाल उठाया गया है यह सारे सदन और सारे सदस्यों की प्रतिष्ठा का सवाल उठाया गया है **(व्यवधान)** मैं समझता हूं जैकब साहब **(व्यवधान)**

श्री आर० के० धवन : यह कहीं भी नहीं लिखा है कि पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर को हाउस में हर वक्त रहना चाहिए **(व्यवधान)**

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : उपसभापति महोदया, आप इस बात को बिजनेस एडवाइजरी कमेटी में उठाएं **(व्यवधान)**

श्री आर० के० धवन : मिस्टर सिन्हा आपके समय में तो एक भी मिनिस्टर नहीं होता था हाउस में, यहां तो तीन-तीन मिनिस्टर बैठे हुए हैं **(व्यवधान)** और कुछ उठाने को है नहीं, मिनिस्टर नहीं है यहां पर **(व्यवधान)**

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र): धवन साहब कह रहे हैं, यह सच है कि कहीं नहीं लिखा है कि पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर को पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स का काम करना चाहिए। **(व्यवधान)**

श्री आर० के० धवन : यह मैंने नहीं कहा है **(व्यवधान)** महाजन जी, ठीक से सुनाई नहीं देता **(व्यवधान)** मैंने यह नहीं कहा है। मैंने यह कहा है कि यह कहीं नहीं लिखा कि पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर को हर वक्त यहां हाउस में रहना चाहिए। **(व्यवधान)**

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मेरा प्रस्ताव है कि धवन साहब को मिनिस्टर बना दिया जाए इस शर्त के साथ हाउस में वे प्रेजेंट रहें **(व्यवधान)**

श्री आर. के. धवन : आप मिनिस्टर कभी नहीं रहे इसलिए ऐसा कह रहे **(व्यवधान)**

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam Deputy Chairman, the point I was making was . . . *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Order, please.

See, the Leader of the House is generally present in the House. So is the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr. Jacob. Now, the Leader of the Home is also the Home Minister, and Mr. Jacob is also the Home Minister. Sometimes they have the responsibility in the other House. It is quite possible that the Leader today is in the other House. I do not know. But, if you feel that you are making a serious discussion, when you are raising issues, any Minister can take notes and pass them on to the Minister concerned.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Madam, I want to say...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Jacob, just a minute. I am not making that point. The point I am making is that I raised that issue on Tuesday. The Home Minister who is the Leader of the House, was himself present. When the whole House cutting across party lines responded to that point I had made, then, the Home Minister thought it fit to get up and give a categorical assurance to the House that he would not only convey the feelings of the House on the volatile situation on the borders but would also ask the Defence Minister to make a statement. That is a categorical assurance by the Government. Now, the reason, Madam Deputy Chairman, why I am buttressing this point ... (*Interruptions*)

I am not raising that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Mr. Dhawan, who are you to answer that? You are nobody to answer that. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI R. K. DHAWAN: I know your performance when you were in the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The point, therefore, that I am making is that I raised this issue on the opening day of this week, namely, Tuesday. Today is Thursday. We have absolutely no indication when the Defence Minister is going to make a statement on that.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): The Minister is replying to the debate in the other House.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: There the Minister of State for Defence.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They have Demands.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: How can you blame the Defence Minister?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am not blaming the Defence Minister. I want to know from the Government when is going to make a statement. The border situation is changing. Mr. Jagdish Mathur is sitting here. He brought the information and said responsibility in the House that 70 Indian soldiers have been taken prisoners of war in the Poonch Sector, and this House is sleeping over it. Is this what we have been reduced to? What are you talking? I just want to know when the Defence Minister going to make a statement in this House on this important issue. The Government is setting quiet. Mr. Jacob is sitting quiet. They cannot even tell us where they are.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can't say is sitting quiet. He might have told about it. He is speaking please.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Madam, I was sitting in the House about five minutes ago. I just went out of the House after informing my colleagues. I told them that I will just come back. ...(*Interruptions*)...For my personal necessity I went out after telling them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing this...

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I don't think that Mr. Sinha will object to my being absent for two or three minutes...(Interruptions)...I am not on the warpath with my good friend, Mr. Sinha. In fact, he has raised an important issue. .. (Interruptions).. He is a good friend of mine. That is why I am not going to quarrel with him on that. Mr. Sinha knows fully well that I used to sit for more time in the House than anybody else. Even when he was the Leader of the House, he knew about it.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have not raised that point. You don't have to offer that explanation to me. I am only talking about the statement, Mr. Jacob.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Madam, regarding the matter which he has raised, I shall certainly get in touch with the Defence Minister and come back to the House with whatever information I get from them on the subject. I am not talking about the statement to be made here. I will tell the Chair about the nature of things after ascertaining from the Defence Minister after sometime.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As far as my information goes, in the other House they are discussing about the grants for the Defence Ministry since yesterday. So we will take this matter seriously. Now, let me go to the special mentions. (व्यवधान) अब यह मामला खत्म हो गया, शंकर दयाल जी, कृपया स्थान ग्रहण करिये ।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मैडम, इस हाउस में डिसकशन के लिए चार सबजैक्ट आए थे... (व्यवधान) लेकिन डिफैंस को ओमिट कर दिया है ।

उपसभापति : वह मसला न उठाईये ।

SHRI M. M. JACOB: The Business Advisory Committee is meeting today at 4 P. M. Then, we can discuss it.

Shipping of 300 Soviet-Built Tanks as gift from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, great concern has been caused by reports that Saudi Arabia has decided to gift to Pakistan about 300 Soviet-built tanks captured intact by the U.S. troops from the retreating Iraqi army during the Gulf war. In fact, the first consignment of this T-62 and T-72 tanks were lifted from the Saudi Arabia port of Dammam and taken to Pakistan during the third week of August, according to this report. What is equally disturbing is the report that gifting of 300 tanks has the approval of Pentagon, the U.S. military command. Madam, the report also says that certain Middle-Eastern countries have decided to strengthen the Pakistan army. This is a very serious matter and a menacing development very adversely affecting our defence strategy and interests. This may also upset the military balance in this region to our disadvantage. We would like to know from the Government, what are the facts of the matter? Has the Government contacted the Saudi Arabian Government—of course it is a friendly Government—to ascertain their version? May I know from the Minister whether its Embassy in Delhi has given any information on the subject? The report also mentions about the Pentagon approval to these operations. May I know from the Minister whether they have contacted the U.S. Government to ascertain the facts? May I know from the Minister, what is the attitude of the Middle-Eastern countries towards India vis-a-vis present problems with Pakistan? What is their role in this particular tank gift operation? If the reports are correct, they strengthen the apprehensions that Pakistan is preparing for a war against India. The Pakistan Prime Minister also threatened that there will be a war with India if Kashmir issue is not settled. The retired Army Chief of Staff of Pakistan, Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg has also held out a similar threat. In fact, some skirmishes are going on on the border with Pakistan for the last few